

ABSTRACT

T cell receptors (TCRs) that have higher affinity for a ligand than wild type TCRs are provided. These high affinity TCRs are formed by mutagenizing a T cell receptor protein coding sequence to generate a variegated population of mutants of the T cell receptor protein coding sequence; transforming the T cell receptor mutant coding sequence into yeast cells; inducing expression of the T cell receptor mutant coding sequence on the surface of yeast cells; and selecting those cells expressing T cell receptor mutants that have higher affinity for the peptide/MHC ligand than the wild type T cell receptor protein. The high affinity TCRs can be used in place of an antibody or single chain antibody.